

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 4A has been amended to change the reference character 10 for the tang portion to 104. A Replacement sheet is provided in Appendix A of this Response to Office Action. An Annotated Marked-up Drawing is provided in Appendix B of this Response to Office Action.

Response to Office Action Mailed June 23, 2005
Inventor: Simpson
Attorney Docket No: 31104-7
Response dated July 20, 2005
Serial Number: 10/648,059
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REMARKS

Claim 1 has been cancelled herein. Claims 2-37 have been added as new claims. The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.84 and the Applicant thanks the Examiner for his thorough review. Claim 1 has been cancelled.

A. Drawing Objection

The Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(4) because the reference character "10" was used to designate both the prior art safety belt of FIG. 1 and the tang in FIG. 4A. The Applicant has amended the reference character "10" in FIG. 4A to "104" to address this objection.

The Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference sign "105" mentioned in the description and do include reference sign "103" not mentioned in the description. The Applicant has amended the specification to change "105" to "103" to address this objection.

In light of the amendments made herein, it is now believed that the drawings are non-objectable.

B. Amendment to the Specification

The Applicant has removed the reference character "122" from the body of the specification because there is no corresponding reference character in the drawings. The reference character has been amended to "103" to reflect the proper reference character that is described elsewhere in the specification.

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C. Claim Rejection Under Section 102(b)

The Office Action rejected claim 1 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,809,410 to Van Riesen (hereinafter the "Van Riesen reference") and U.S. Patent No. 3,925,853 to Nicklin (hereinafter the "Nicklin reference"). The Applicant has cancelled claim 1 in response to this rejection and therefore respectfully submits that the rejection is moot.

New claims 2-37 include many features not taught or suggested in either of the cited references. One non-limiting example is the feature of "wherein the first and second openings are positioned between the coupling mechanism and the seat when the tang portion is attached to the coupling mechanism." The Van Reisen reference teaches only one opening between the coupling mechanism and the seat when the tang portion is attached to the coupling mechanism. The Nicklin reference teaches the same. In fact, the references clearly teach away because an identical configuration is presented in these two references as illustrated in the prior art FIGs. 1 and 2. The configuration places only one slot for an anti-submarine belt below the lap belt which will lead to testicular injury. Therefore, none of the references of record teach or suggest this feature of the claims. Additional features exist in the newly presented claims that are patentable over the cited references.

D. Conclusion

In sum, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-37 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney to address any outstanding matters concerning the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Annotated Markedup Drawing
Appendix B
Attorney Docket #31104-7
Serial #10/648.059

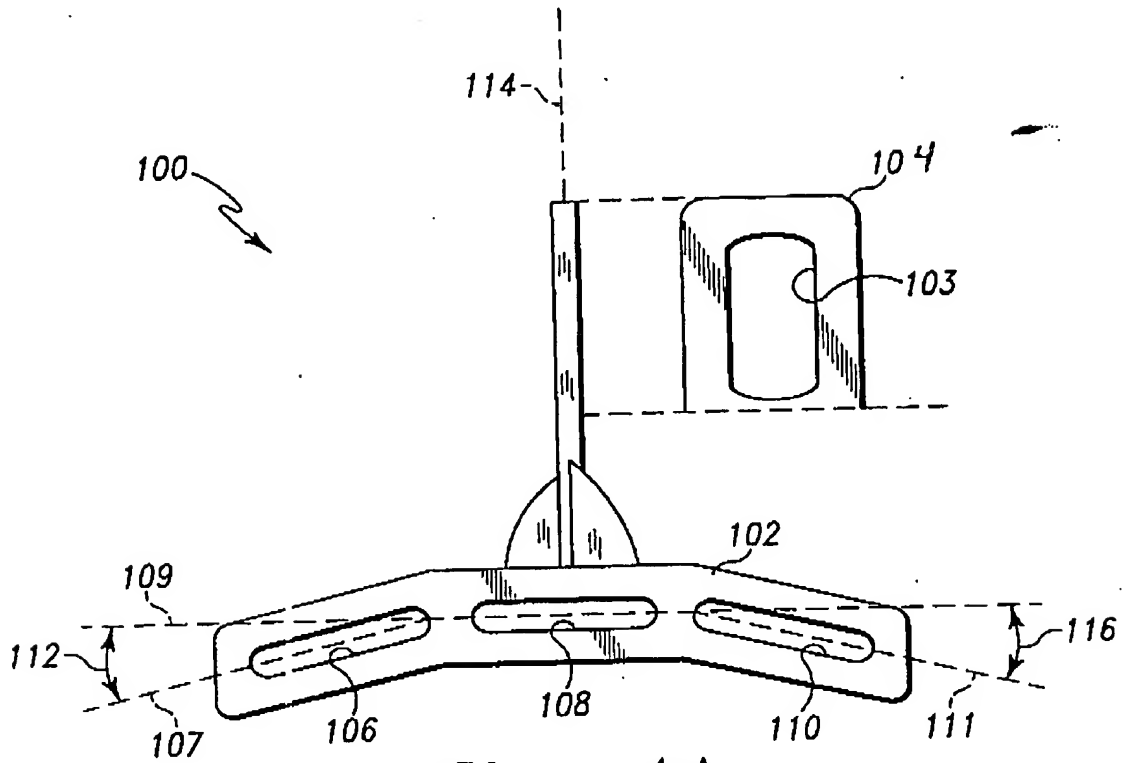


Fig. 4A

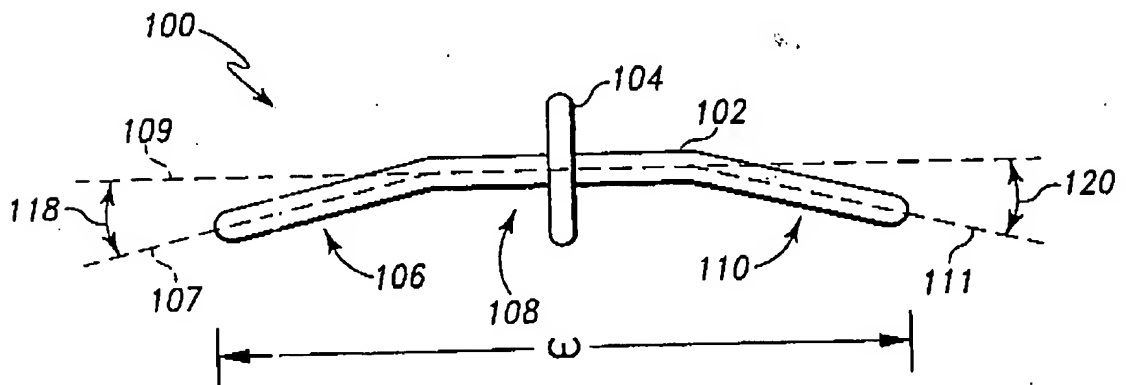


Fig. 4B